

Edmund Pendleton Gaines to Andrew Jackson, December 2, 1817, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL EDMUND P. GAINES TO JACKSON.

Fort Scott, Ga. , December 2, 1817.

General, It is my painful duty to report to you an affair of a more serious and disastrous character than has heretofore occurred upon this frontier; and which leaves no doubt of the deep hostility of the Indians, or the necessity of prompt and efficient measures on our part.

A large party of Seminola Indians on the 30th Ultimo formed an ambuscade on the Appalachicola river a mile below the junction of the Flint and Chattahoochie, attacked one of our boats ascending near the shore, and killed, wounded and took the greater part of the detachment consisting of forty men commanded by Lieut. R. W. Scott of the 7th Infantry; there were also on board killed or taken Seven women the wives of Soldiers. Six men of the detachment only escaped, four of whom were wounded. They report that the strength of the current at the point of attack had obliged the Lieutenant to keep his boat near the shore; that the Indians had formed along the Bank of the River and were not discovered until their fire commenced, in the first volley of which Lieut. Scott and his most valuable men fell. . . . 1

1 After the attack on Fowltown, Nov. 21, 1817, Gaines ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Arbuckle, with 300 men, to reconnoitre in the vicinity of that place. The Indians were discovered in a swamp and sixty of them came out and attacked the white troops, with the loss of six or eight killed and many more wounded. The whites lost but one killed and

Library of Congress

two wounded. It was in retaliation for these attacks that the savages attacked Lieutenant Scott's party Nov. 30. See Gaines to Jackson, Nov. 26, 1817, Jackson MSS.